



ASB OFFICE FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

# P R E S S R E L E A S E

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## **ASB FINALISES A JOINT PROJECT WITH THE CANTON OF SARAJEVO AND THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

The Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ASB) has recently finalised the implementation of the project for reconstruction of 33 houses for minority Bosniak returnees from the Canton of Sarajevo, BiH, to the Municipality of Foča in the Republic of Srpska, the reconstruction of two health centres in Tjenište and Kozja Luka in the Municipality of Foča, the reconstruction of four bridges in the Municipality of Kalinovnik and the delivery of 29 grants (15 livestock and 14 multi-cultivators) for economic recovery and sustainability. This was a joint project in which funds were merged by the Ministry of Labour, Social Policy, Displaced Persons and Refugees of the Canton of Sarajevo, the Ministry of Housing of the Canton of Sarajevo and the Ministry of Health of the Canton of Sarajevo (€ 670.374,20), the German Foreign Ministry (€ 145,000) and ASB (€ 77,350), totalling € 892.724,20.

The focus of this ASB's project was to assist the Bosniak minorities in their return to pre-war communities and to provide them with support through reconstruction of their houses, health centres and public infrastructure, and economic sustainability. These minorities were encountering social and economic problems such as poverty, unemployment, and uncertainty about their future in their host communities. ASB eased their reintegration into pre-war communities and normalised and stabilised their lives after years living as refugees. This project was also crucial in that funds were obtained from various stakeholders such as the Canton governments, the German Government and implementing agency. Under this project, ASB will also carry out the reconstruction of additional 25 houses for minority Bosniak returnees from the Canton of Sarajevo to the municipalities of Foča, Kalinovnik and Trnovo in the Republic of Srpska along with the reconstruction of one health centre which will be implemented in 2009. The BiH Federal Ministry for DPs and Refugees will contribute to this project with 500,000 KM.

Since 1994, ASB has implemented projects valued at over € 41.2 million and has rebuilt 1,621 houses in BiH and supported the return of more than 5,000 refugees and displaced persons. The German Government has been supporting various projects such as reconstruction of houses of categories 1-3, construction of apartment buildings, mine-clearance and provision of humanitarian aid throughout the Republic of Croatia, BiH, Kosovo and Serbia proving to be a valuable partner of ASB in SEE region over the last 17 years.

For further information please contact:



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